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“Purlie Victorious”

Channing Pollock Collection

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THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

In Celebration of The University
Centennial

present

PURLE VICTORIOUS

Play by *Ossie Davis*

Direction & Lighting by *Robert E. West*

Settings by *St. Clair*

IRA ALDRIDGE THEATRE

FEBRUARY 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1967

8:30 PM.

FEBRUARY 25, 1967

2:30 PM.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Beauris A. Whitehead
Stagemanager.....Charles Butler
Ass't. Stagemanager.....Adrienne Cooper
Lights.....Edith White, David Simon
Sound.....Ronald Truitt
Prop Mistress.....Adrienne Cooper
Prop Crew.....Judy Swann, James
Wilks, Linda McNear, Robert Stephens,
Richard Wesley
Make-up.....Buddy
Set Construction.....James Wilks, Lee
Hancock, Sam Greenfield, April Perry,
Eileen Crawford, Renee Cook, Francelia
Gleaves, Edith White, Sandra Williams,
June Bond, Shoppard McNeal, Thomas Gates,
Charles Butler, Adrienne Cooper, Lynda
Bradley, Rita Wornley, Jimmy Richardson,
Ronald Truitt, Pat Shepard, Bonne Banfield,
Richard Wesley, Robert Stephens, Charles
Michael, James Fair, Chassie West, Farris
Barclay, Peter Snow, Phylicia Allen,
Darrell Brown, Norman Forsythe

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Eileen Crawford, Renee Cook, Francelia
Gleaves, Edith White, Sundra Williams,
June Bond, Sheppard J'Neal, Thomas Gates,
Charles Butler, Adrienne Cooper, Lynda
Bradley, Rita Wormley, Jimmy Richardson,
Ronald Truitt, Pat Shepard, Bonne Banfield,
Richard Wesley, Robert Stephens, Charles
Michael, James Fair, Chassie West, Farris
Barclay, Peter Snow, Phylisia Allen,
Darrell Brown, Norman Forsythe

Box Office Manager.....Oswald Ratteray

House Manager.....Daisy Bennett

Publicity.....Evelyn Lee, Advisor
Charles Bettis, St. Clair Christmas,
Pat Shepar, Robert L. Stephens

Box Office and House Staff.....
Carl Taylor, Clyde Grabb, Charles
Michael, Karen Echols, Jean Bennet,
Thaddeus Dennis, Louise Heath, Angela
Dyson, Pat Shepard, Francelia Gleaves,
Lee Hancock, Sandra Cooper, Barbara
Freeman, Sam Greenfield, Renee Cook,
Keith Jones

Advisor..... Ted Shine

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Owen Dodson, Head of the Drama Department
Ralph T. Dines, Berkeley Williams
William T. Brown, William M. Davis
Shizu
James W. Butcher
Nicholas Read
John Foreman
Ted Shine
LOUIE'S
Robert Williams, Robert Coleman

Sponsor for Feb. 22 - FOCUS ASSOCIATES

THIS PLAY IS PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH SAMUEL FRENCH OF NEW YORK

Be glad now if you skipped Purlie Victorious on Broadway during the two-year tour.

Regrets for missing the distinguished actor, Ossie Davis, and his wife, Ruby Dee, are wiped out by the glee the Howard University Players' cast brings to the show. It has been a long time since I enjoyed a production more.

In his play, Davis has taken all the stock characters in the civil rights struggle, thrown them into a "bodacious" battle for an old church and come up with one of those evenings seldom found. Virtually every cliché ever uttered by white segregationists or Negro civil rights leaders gets twisted back on its original speaker. James Fair makes Purlie Victorious Judson a caricature of everybody from Martin Luther King to former Howard student, Stokely Carmichael. Considering the play was first produced a half-dozen years ago, Purlie was a prophet in calling for black power. In the second act, Fair had his audience clapping their hands and shouting approval as he took off in revival preacher style.

Being a production entirely by students, the Howard Purlie has some flaws, but very minor. Definitely not among them is the direction of Robert E. West, who has his players cranking out laughs, gestures, looks and movements on those rare occasions where Davis hasn't written them in. Leroy E. Giles and Chassie L. West give their Uncle Tom and his bossy wife roles the kind of insight rarely found on any stage.

Perhaps you should be warned that the laughs have sharp edges that cut up both white and Negro. Each race gets its sensitivities slashed apart by a "golden razor" as Purlie might call it. The jokes are all on the audience; the opening night audience loved it and so did I. Call this the hottest "In-Show" in town and be joyful that they've added extra performances next week for Purlie Victorious by the Howard University Players in Ira Aldridge Theatre.